MAIDSTONE INTER-FAITH NETWORK

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

Maidstone Inter-Faith Network condemns the conflict in Ukraine and is saddened to witness the suffering of thousands of innocent people. The fact that such a situation has arisen in the first place is a sad indictment on the world's ability to enable people to live at peace with their neighbours. Lessons are not being learned from previous conflicts around the world – war is not and never will be the solution.

The response of the British people to this humanitarian crisis has, as expected, been wonderful. We support these efforts and are contributing in our own ways through our faith communities. Whilst the offer of financial support to UK families to host Ukrainian refugees is welcomed, we are perplexed as to why such help has not been afforded to refugees from other war-torn countries, e.g. Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen. We hope that the financial support offered will not be abused by people who wish to profiteer from the situation and that the vetting system will be robust.

We will continue to provide support and offer prayers for healing and peace between Russia and Ukraine. It is our fervent hope that the conflict will end soon and a solution will be found which ensures that such a situation will never arise again in the future.

Maidstone Inter-Faith Network 25 March 2022 www.mifn.org.uk